

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, VN

SUBJECT: U.S.-VIETNAM RELATIONS: TRANSCRIPT OF DAILY
NEWS BRIEFING APRIL 15, 1977.

MR. HODDING CARTER: GODD AFTERNOON.

IN RESPONSE TO MANY QUESTIONS WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING ABOUT
OUR UPCOMING TALKS WITH THE VIETNAMESE AND IN VIEW OF THE
NUMBER OF HIGHLY INACCURATE STORIES ON THE SUBJECT, I
WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AGREEMENT
WAS REACHED ON A DATE FOR THE START OF OUR MEETINGS. THEY
WILL BE HELD IN PARIS BEGINNING ON MAY 3RD AND WE WILL BE
REPRESENTED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE. OTHER DETAILS
ARE BEING WORKED OUT AT THE PRESENT TIME.

ONE ASPECT OF THE STORIES OF YESTERDAY REFERRED TO DIS-
AGREEMENTS OVER THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION, DATES AND SO
FORTH. I SHOULD POINT OUT THAT NEITHER SIDE HAS MADE ANY
PROPOSAL WHICH HAS BEEN REJECTED BY THE OTHER. ON THE
CONTRARY, OUR EXCHANGES WITH THE VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN QUITE
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SMOOTH AND THERE HAS BEEN NO HAGGLING OR DISAGREEMENT.

THIS IS AS MUCH AS WE HAVE ON THE SUBJECT RIGHT NOW.

Q: NO HAGGLING OR WHAT?
A: OR DISAGREEMENT.

Q: WELL, WHO WILL REPRESENT THE VIETNAMESE SIDE?

A: WE DON'T KNOW THAT.

Q: I DON'T KNOW WHOSE STORY YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT, HODDING, BUT, IN FACT, ARE YOU SAYING THEN THAT THE VIETNAMESE DID NOT PROPOSE APRIL 20TH TO 24TH?

A: I AM SAYING THAT THERE WERE NO PROPOSALS MADE BY EITHER SIDE WHICH WAS REJECTED BY THE OTHER.

Q: YES. WELL, OKAY; AS I SAY, I DON'T KNOW WHOSE STORY YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT. (LAUGHTER) WHAT WILL BE THE PURPOSE OF THE TALKS?

A: WELL, THE GENERAL PURPOSE OF THE TALKS, AS YOU KNOW, IS NORMALIZING RELATIONS.

Q: I AM SORRY. I HAVE ONE QUESTION WHICH RELATES TO THAT. CAN YOU SAY ANYTHING MORE ABOUT MY QUESTION YESTERDAY? IS THERE ANY U.S. PROPOSAL IN VIEW OF AN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS BETWEEN THOSE COUNTRIES?

A: NO. I HAVE NOTHING AT THIS POINT ON THAT.

Q: LET ME ASK ANOTHER QUESTION. YOU SAID "ON THE START OF THE TALKS." ARE THEY GOING TO CONTINUE TALKING UNTIL THEY COME TO AN AGREEMENT OR DON'T, OR ARE THEY GOING TO MEET--

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A: I CAN'T SPECULATE ON WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT OF THIS FIRST ROUND OF TALKS.

Q: HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW LONG THE FIRST ROUND WILL LAST? ANY IDEA HOW LONG:

A: NO, I DON'T.

Q: IS THERE ANY POINT AT WHICH THE SECRETARY MIGHT BECOME INVOLVED IN THOSE TALKS IN PARIS?

A: I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT WHATSOEVER, BARRIE.

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